

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8419

AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 0995

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, VT

SUBJECT: VATICAN STATEMENT ON LEBANESE CRISIS

REF: ROME 1523

1. WHILE SOME POINTS APPARENTLY STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION, FORMULA FOR CEASEFIRE/POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS BELIEVED HERE TO EMBRACE TEN POINTS OUTLINED BELOW. THESE WERE REVEALED A WEEK AGO AND, ASSUMING NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED AS HOPED, ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED WITHIN WEEK BY PRES FRANGIE. SOME POINTS MAY OF COURSE DIFFER IN FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT. SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS CONCERNING PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON--PARTS OF WHICH ARE ALSO STILL BEING THRASHED OUT--WILL REPORTEDLY BE BASED ON PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS THIS SUBJECT.

(A) THE CONSTITUTION WILL CONTAIN A PROVISION THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IS TO BE A MARONITE.

(B) PRESIDENTIAL PREROGATIVES WILL BE SPELLED OUT IN SOME FORM.

(C) THE PARLIAMENT WILL ELECT THE PREMIER.

(D) PROCEDURES IN CASE THE PRESIDENT REJECTS THE PREMIER-DESIGNATE OR THE LATTER REFUSES TO SERVE WILL BE SPELLED OUT (THE SPECIFICS OF THIS POINT ARE REPORTEDLY STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION).

(E) THE PREMIER WILL CHAIR THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL (AS OPPOSED TO FULL-FLEDGED CABINET CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT)

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AND THIS BODY CAN ISSUE ROUTINE DECREES.

(F) THERE WILL BE A CONSTITUTIONAL SUPREME COURT.
(G) REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT WILL BE EVENLY SPLIT
BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS.
(H) THERE WILL BE SECOND LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER.
(I) CONFESSIONALISM WILL BE ABOLISHED IN CIVIL SERVICE
JOBS EXCEPT FOR THE 170 TOP-LEVEL POSITIONS (DIRECTOR GENERAL
AND ABOVE).
(U) THERE WILL BE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS.
LAMBRAKIS

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